

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1882

SECDEF WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2780

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR UK GW IT NATO

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN MULTI ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT (MRCA)

REF: A. AMEMBASSY LONDON 07328

1. MISSION AGREES WITH LONDON EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MRCA AS A TEST OF THE ABILITY OF THREE OF OUR MAJOR ALLIES (UK FRG AND UTALY) TO DEVELOP AND PRODUCE AN ADVANCED WEAPON SYSTEM. MISSION ALSO BELIEVES THAT LONDON IS CORRECT IN THE JUDGEMENT THAT FAILURE OF THE MRCA WOULD BE A DEFEAT FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMON PROCUREMENT AND STANDARDIZATION.

2. IN MISSIONS VIEW,THE MRCA COULD BE A VALUABLE ASSET TO NATO IN THE ALL-WEATHER ATTACK ROLE,AND , SINCE MOST OF THE DEVELOPMENT MONEY HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT, IT SEEMS TOO LATE FOR THE EUROPEANS TO ADOPT AN ALTERNATIVE AIRCRAFT FOR THIS ROLE.

3. IF LONDON IS CORRECT THAT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF THE MRCA ARE NOW UNDER CONTROL,MISSION AGREES THAT US SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT THE EFFICIENT COMPLETION OF
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THE PROGRAM. THE SUCCESS OF THE MRCA REFUTES THE FRNECH CONTENTION THAT EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY WILL LIVE OR DIE AS A RESULT OF THE FATE OF THE MIRAGE F-1 AND SHOULD HELP TO MOVE NATO TOWARD STANDARDIZATION ON THE F-16 AS A

LIGHT WEIGHT FIGHTER. BRUCE

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To: STATE
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ROME
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